



Amendments To The Specification

Page 2, between paragraph [0008] and [0009], please insert the following heading:

Summary of the invention

Page 2, delete paragraph [0009]

Page 2, please change paragraph [0010] to read as follows:

[0010] The above object generally is achieved by ~~in~~ the shaft frame of the invention, wherein the heddle support rail is either resiliently supported as a whole, or it has at least one resiliently supported portion for receiving one or more heddles at their heddle heads. As a result, the heddle can be held in a prestressed fashion. The prestressing can be absorbed either only within the heddle head, in which case the heddle is retained without force in the state of repose, or force can alternatively be exerted via the heddle because the heddle is tensed, by means of the resiliently supported heddle support rail or by its resiliently supported portion, as a whole against the diametrically opposite heddle support rail. The latter is preferred, because the tensile force constantly exerted on the heddle and originating in the spring means of the heddle support rail in a sense reinforces the heddle. The heddles are therefore securely held as a whole without play on the shaft frame, so that even at high operating speeds, no hitting or clattering occurs. Moreover, heddles that are not as kink-resistant can be employed. If needed, however, a stiffening of the heddles is additionally possible, by providing them with a longitudinally extending edge or channel.

Page 5, please change paragraph [0017] to read as follows

[0017] Further details of advantageous embodiments of the invention are the subject of the drawings, description, or dependent claims. Exemplary embodiments of the invention are shown in the drawings. ~~Shown are:~~

Brief Description of the Drawings

Page 5, please change paragraphs [0018] - [0025] to read as follows:

- [0018] Fig. 1[[,]] is a schematic view of a heddle shaft with a drive mechanism[[;]].
- [0019] Fig. 2[[,]] is a schematic cross section through the heddle shaft of Fig. 1[[;]].
- [0020] Fig. 3[[,]] is a detail in section of the heddle shaft of Fig. 2[[;]].
- [0021] Fig. 4[[,]] is a modified embodiment of a heddle support rail for a heddle shaft[[;]].
- [0022] Fig. 5[[,]] shows the drive point of Fig. 4 with a heddle supported on it[[;]].
- [0023] Fig. 6[[,]] shows a further embodiment of a heddle support rail; and
- [0024] Fig. 7[[,]] shows an enlarged sectional view of the heddle support rail of Fig. 6.
- [0025] Fig. 8[[,]] is an enlarged detail of a heddle support rail with a weaving heddle with an integrated spring means in the head of the weaving heddle.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Page 12, please amend paragraph [0043] to read as follows:

The support rail portions 7a, 7b are embodied on the order of resilient lips and can pivot at an acute angle α , β , each approximately ~~10° to 30°~~ 10° to 30° (depending on the embodiment). The dimensioning is made such that the undeformed heddle support rail 7, as Fig. 5 shows, receives the heddle head 5 with very slight play S1, S2. The play, which is preferably in the range of less than 1 mm, is so slight that even at high operating speeds, excessive noises do not occur. The flexible support rail portions 7a, 7b act as resilient buffers and thus protectively absorb impacts and shocks upon acceleration and braking of the heddles 3.